International Flights from Guwahati

1. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects for improvement of Guwahati Airport, both National and International, indicating target set for commissioning;

(b) the details of introduction of International flights to and from Guwahati;

(c) the status of introduction of 50 seater aircraft to make it a regional hub of NE; and

(d) the proposals in the pipeline including those pending clearance alongwith the reasons and probable date of sanction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN): (a) Projects like construction of boundary wall around newly acquired land for extension of runway from 9000 feet to 12000 feet at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.85 crores to be completed by March, 2003, construction of perimeter road and air-conditioning of entire building at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.30 crores to be completed by March, 2002, are in progress for improvement of Guwahati Airport.

(b) Air India has scheduled to operate bi-weekly services through Guwahati to Bangkok with Airbus 310 aircraft *w.e.f.* 4th April, 2002. The route of the flights will be Mumbai—Kolkata—Guwahati—Bangkok on Thursday and *vice-versa* on Monday.

(c) To increase air connectivity in the North East Region, Indian Airlines was advised to explore possibility of leasing 50-seater aircraft. Indian Airlines has, accordingly, initiated a Global Tender process for leasing of 6 ATR 42-500 aircraft.

(d) Site survey has been completed for extension of runway from 9000 feet to 12000 feet and is likely to be taken up during 2002-03.

Scope details, drawing are under finalisation for expansion of apron, provision of two aerobridges, visitors' lounge and associated works and are likely to be taken up during 2002-03. Proposal for construction of new international terminal building is at[1] planning stage and for construction of international cargo complex, statistical data is being collected to finalise the scope of work.

Ground Handling Services at Hyderabad Airport

2. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether selection process of private company for providing ground handling services at Hyderabad international airport has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of services which have been awarded to the company; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative by when, the process will be over?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The matter is under consideration. No definite time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Benefits of 'DESH—VIDESH' Scheme launched by IA

3. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of citizens who have availed of the benefit of 'Desh—Videsh' scheme launched by Indian Airlines for domestic travellers;